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Finance Committee Minutes 04-02-2003

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

7:30 PM O'Neill room, community safety building

4/2/03

ATTENDEES:

Janowitz*	Feinleib	O'Riordan*	O'Neill*	Mahoney
DeCoursey*	Connors	Simmons*	Morrisette*	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst*	Ronan	
Piandes*	Franclemont*	Jones	Olsen*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning	Tosi	Kneeland*

* Indicates present

VISITORS: Council On Aging Members Richard Murray (Chair), Mary Dodge (Vice Chair), Shirley Chapski, Mildred Hurd, Harry McCabe, Dorothy Nicholas, John Jope (Director); Treasurer John Bilafer, Robin Schoenthaler, Paul Bayer

MINUTES of 3/32/03 accepted as corrected. Unanimous

BUDGET 21D Council on Aging (COA): Murray, using a handout, explained the proposed State and Town budget reductions and the effect of these reductions on the COA. The reductions total almost \$37,000 and will likely result in loss of the COA social worker and nurse. Further State cuts are rumored. Murray said some private fundraising is possible. The COA has recently been using half the interest earnings from the \$250,000 Savoyan Trust for a scholarship and a pilot dental program. These funds must go directly to clients. The Finance Committee requested that the COA consider how it utilizes its funds to address the Town's financial problem.

ARTICLE 74 BORROWING CAP/ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECTS: Bilafer reviewed the school-renovation funding history. Most recently he sold, at much lower cost than expected, \$10.2 million in bonds to finance Peirce and then realized that State reimbursements would not be available until long after the building was finished. The local tax rate will have to carry the full cost of these bonds for the foreseeable future. Given the uncertainty about reimbursement, Bilafer feels that bonding the Dallin would cause the tax load to exceed what had been promised during the last debt exclusion campaign. Bilafer wants to stimulate discussion but has approached neither the CPC nor the School Committee. Tosti suggested [bond anticipation notes] BANS until the reimbursement for Peirce begins. There was considerable discussion.

OVERRIDE: Olsen, who requested this discussion, stated that the Finance Committee should propose a multiyear plan. A general discussion followed. The preliminary census survey results were provided. Other points discussed included the cushioning provided by the free cash buildup, and the Stabilization Fund; the responsibility of the Board of Selectmen to set an override goal; whether or not the Finance Committee should take a position on the override; whether the schools have other options than teacher layoffs; the need and time required to educate the voters. Tosti plans to develop two budgets, with and without an override. He has requested the Board of Selectmen to decide the amount by 4/28. This discussion will be continued at the next meeting.

TRANSFER: VOTED to approve a Comptroller request to transfer \$10,000 from personnel services to expenses to pay for conversion from Novell Netware to Windows 2000 on some Town servers. Unanimous.

COMMITTEE: Chair again reminded all members to review entire budget and forward questions to appropriate subcommittee in hopes of saving time in April. Meetings are planned for 4/14, 4/16.

RESERVE FUND BALANCE \$300,000

Peter B. Howard,
Secretary

Budget & Article Action Summary

Bud #	Date presented	Date of vote	\$	Vote	Art#	Date presented	Date of vote	\$	Vote/ assigned to
1					11	2/19	2/19	bylaw chng	11-2
2					13	2/8	2/8	support	
3					14	2/19		no report	
4					17	2/19		no report	
5					20	2/11	2/11	no report	Unanimous
6					21	2/11	2/11	no report	Unanimous
7					23				Foskett
8					24				
9					25	2/19		no report	
10					26	3/26			
11					27	3/26	3/26	no action	Unanimous
12					30	2/26		info request	
13					31	2/26		info request	
14					32	2/19		no report	
15					33	2/8	postponed		
16					34	2/8	postponed		
17a					37				
17b					38				
17c					39				
17d					41	2/6	info req'd		
17e					42	2/6	info req'd		
17f					43	2/6	info req'd		
19					44	3/26	3/26	favorbl act	Unanimous
20					45	3/26	3/26	no report	Unanimous
21a					46	3/26	3/26	no report	Unanimous
21b					47	3/26	3/26	no report	Unanimous
21c					48	3/26	3/26	no report	Unanimous
21d	4/2				49	3/26	3/26	no report	Unanimous
22					50	3/26	3/26	no report	Unanimous
23					51	3/26	3/26	no report	Unanimous
24					52	3/26			
25					53	3/26			O'Neill
26					55	3/26			Du Bois
W/S					56	3/81	3/81	6747373	Unanimous
Rec	3/6				57	3/26	3/26	no action	Unanimous
Rnk					59	3/81			De Courcye y
COA					60	2/19 26 3/6 Hum Rt 3/26 CPC 3/26 Disabl	2/19 26 3/6 3/26 3/26	10% reduct 4500 0 0	Unanimous Unanimous Unanimous Unanimous
YS					61	2/19	2/19	no action	Unanimous
					63A	2/26 3/26	2/19	2000	8-7
					63B	2/26 3/26	2/19	5667	14-1
					63C	3/26			
					63D	2/26	2/19	0	Unanimous
					63E	2/26	2/19	3000	12-2
					64B	3/26 Un Em			
					64C	3/26 Trav	3/26	1500	Unanimous
					64E	2/26	2/26	9813	Unanimous
					65	3/26	3/26	no action	Unanimous
					66	3/26	3/26	no action	Unanimous
					67	2/6 2/11	2/11	no action	Unanimous
					68	3/17	3/17	no action	Unanimous
					69	2/11	2/11 3/26	no action	Unanimous
80					70	2/19	2/19	no action or \$35k w/ OR	12-2

